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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/476,622	12/31/1999	Howard Chin	884.101US1	8079

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Schwegman Lundberg Woessner & Kluth PA
P O Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402

EXAMINER

TREAT, WILLIAM M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2183

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<i>Office Action Summary</i>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/476,622	<i>Chin et al.</i>
Examiner	Group Art Unit	
<i>W.TREAT</i>	2183	

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 (three) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/6/02.

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 10 and 21-40 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) 21-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 10 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

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1. Claims 10 and 21-40 are presented for examination.
2. Newly submitted claims 21-40 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

Applicants specification identifies the invention of their new claims 21-40 as a distinct invention from the original claim 10 and their canceled claims.

On page 4, line 25 through page 5, line 3, applicants state: "Fig. 2A is a more detailed block diagram of an example embodiment of the processor and firmware shown in Fig. 1. In one embodiment of the invention, firmware 206 stores program code 210 for controlling the operation of the processor 204. The programmed code 210 stored in the firmware 206 is referred to herein as the 'firmware code.' In an example embodiment, the firmware code 210 implements microcode operations using registers which are specific to a particular machine or to a particular model of a machine. The registers are referred to herein as 'Machine Specific Registers.' The machine specific registers function as an interface between the firmware 206 and the processor 204." Applicants new claims (21-40) are all directed to this new invention requiring machine specific registers.

On page 5, line 25 through page 6, line 4, applicants state: "Fig. 2B is a block diagram of an alternate embodiment of the processor shown in Fig. 1 and external microcode stored in a computer readable medium. In one embodiment of the invention, a computer readable medium 220, which is external to the processor, stores program 222 for controlling the operation of the processor 224. Examples of computer readable mediums external to the processor include, but

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are not limited to, mass storage devices, firmware, and memory. The programmed code 222 stored in the computer readable medium is referred to herein as ‘external microcode.’ In an example embodiment, the external microcode 222 implements microcode operations by controlling hardware logic on the processor 224 without the use of the registers (i.e., the machine specific registers) shown in Fig. 2A.” Applicants’ original claim 10 and their canceled claims were all directed to the alternative invention without machine specific registers.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for claims 21-40 is not required for claim 10, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 21-40 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Demers et al.

(WO 94/12929).

6. The examiner would recommend applicants read page 8, line 25 through page 9, line 3 before responding. The examiner would also note it is inherent in Demers that the microcode of Demers controls one or more functions of the processor by directly triggering hardware on the processor.

7. The examiner regrets his typographical error which caused him to earlier omit the formal rejection of claim 10 from the body of his previous action while still noting claim 10's rejection on the Office Action Summary. This time the examiner has made sure the explanation for the rejection of claim 10 is clear in the body of his action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William M. Treat whose telephone number is (703) 305-9699. The examiner works a flexible schedule, but he can normally be reached during the afternoons and evenings on four of the five weekdays.



WILLIAM M. TREAT
PRIMARY EXAMINER